

# God Is Always Better Than We Think

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*II Kings 5*

- I. **Much of the provision we receive from God starts with an exchange of our weakness for God's strength (James 4:5-6; Matthew 5:1-7; I Corinthians 1:26-31).**
  - A. Naaman would have paid any price for his healing, but the only payment required was humility and faith (II Kings 5:11-14).
  - B. God wanted to show Naaman unconditional favor, but Gehazi distorted it. God hates it when His grace and His heart are misrepresented (II Kings 5:20-27).
  - C. Three key areas where our faith (weakness) and God's strength work together.
    1. Salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:6-10)
    2. Healing (Mark 10:46-52)
    3. Prayer (II Chronicles 7:12-16) (Note: "humble themselves")
  
- II. **Naaman learned the lessons of direct encounter with God.**
  - A. Learning to receive God's Spirit—however and whenever He comes (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 12-15)
  - B. God decides how He comes to us, just as He did with Naaman and the church.
    1. Being vulnerable and open about our brokenness or problems is like a magnet for God's presence (E.g., Being healed from addiction and receiving forgiveness for your failures (I John 1:8-10).
    2. Hunger and humility will always carry you to the river of God's presence (James 4:5-6). Once you are there, take your time and soak (E.g., Naaman's seven times, and other examples).
  
- III. **God solves our problems and brings us into deeper relationship with Him, all at the same time. God is always better than we think (II Kings 5:15-19).**
  - A. Our pain can make us more vulnerable to God, and God reveals Himself to us. This was the reason for Naaman's leprosy. The present Covid crisis is a great opportunity for people to draw close to God and see Him release His power (II Corinthians 12:9,10).
  - B. A deep question for all of us is whether we truly want God, or do we just want His provision? Another question is whether we can truly trust God when we call out to Him. God continually heals our heart in these matters (Matthew 6:25-34; Psalm 32:6-11).
  - C. Ultimately God not only healed Naaman, but He also gave him what he needed the most—an awareness of God Himself. Later, God even revealed Himself to Naaman's entire nation (Aram). Naaman was just the beginning! God is more generous than we can imagine (II Kings 6:8-12, 15-23).

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